

This year's forum

School districts nationwide are grasping for ways to raise achievement scores. They are searching for new curriculum, designing remediation courses, and providing after-school mentorships.

Perhaps the answer is found outside the scope of "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic." Research shows one key to student success is the strong *relationships* that occur at all levels of a school system.

We can never underestimate the value of educators building emotional connections with their students. Students who feel connected are more likely to achieve academic and social success. Other relationships in schools are just as vital: community/school, principal/teacher, and collaboration with teacher preparation programs.

This year's Montana Educator Forum will showcase schools that have cultivated positive relationships. Several panels will present their successful projects, with ample time for questions and answers.

You are encouraged to bring a team so you can learn together. Teams can include teachers, administrators, school board members, higher education partners, and legislators. You will hear ideas you can implement immediately in your own school setting, strengthening the bonds of your team members.

The 2011 Montana Educator Forum will be one you don't want to miss. It is refreshing to identify strategies that can help us all be more successful with our students and improve the morale and atmosphere of our schools.

I look forward to sharing this day with you!

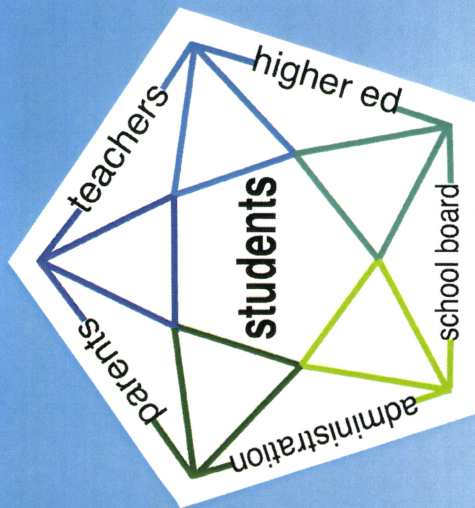
Anne Keith, Forum Chair

Montana Professional Teaching Foundation

Montana Professional
Teaching Foundation
1232 E 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
PH 406.447.1479
FX 406.443.5081

Building Relationships That Work

A Bridge to Student Success



Montana Educator Forum

September 30, 2011

Red Lion Colonial Hotel
2301 Colonial Drive
Helena, Montana

EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOV'T

September 16, 2011

Rm 102, Capitol Bldg, Helena

EXHIBIT 12

Registration Form: 2011 Montana Educator Forum

Name: _____

(Please print or type)

Address (as of 9/1/11): _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone: (w) _____

(h) _____

E-mail: _____

Profession: _____

School Dist or Org: _____

Grade level (if teacher): _____

- **REGISTRATION FEE:** \$30 per person for Coordinated Teams, \$35 for individuals prior to Sept. 12. \$40 for registration received after Sept. 12.
- Breakfast and lunch provided. Participants are responsible for expenses and room reservations. A block of rooms is reserved at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel for participants until Sept. 7. Make room reservations by calling the hotel at 800.422.1002. (Indicate your participation in the Montana Educator Forum.) Room rates are \$92.95 for Queen Single or Double room and \$102.95 for King Single or Double room + tax. Rooms are limited.
- Renewal Units: The Montana Educator Forum is offering five renewal units.
- Please mail form and registration fee to Montana Educator Forum, c/o MEA-MFT, 1232 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59601.

Building Relationships That Work

A Bridge to Student Success

Welcome

Strong partnerships between schools and communities and between teachers, administrators, and students are essential for our students' success.

Building relationships with our students can mean the difference between a student dropping out of school or walking across the stage on graduation day.

As part of my Graduation Matters Montana initiative, I launched the first-ever State Superintendent's Student Advisory Board. Forty students from 31 schools came together to advise me on how to reduce the dropout rate and make sure Montana students leave school ready for college and careers. Students were clear in their desire to have at least one caring adult to encourage them in school.

The 2011 Educator Forum will give us the opportunity to examine our professional relationships and how we can improve them to positively affect student success.

I look forward to seeing you at the Educator Forum September 30!

Denise Juneau
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Agenda

8:00-9 A.M.	Registration (State-Capitol Room lobby) Breakfast Buffet (Capitol Room)
9:00-10:00	Welcome & Speakers (Capitol Room) Opening Remarks: Anne Keith, 2009 Montana Teacher of the Year Denise Juneau, State Superintendent
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:15	Breakout Session #1 (Rooms as assigned)
11:30-12:30	Lunch (Capitol Room) Remarks: Eric Feaver Gov. Brian Schweitzer
12:45-1:45	Breakout Session #2 (Rooms as assigned)
1:45-2:00	Break
2:00-3:00	Breakout Session #3 (Rooms as assigned)
3:00-3:35	Toast/Dessert, Closing (Capitol Room)

Forum Panels

Creative partnerships are essential for student success. The Forum will showcase four such partnerships in Montana school districts.

Panelists will explain their projects, then small group breakout sessions led by panelists will explore the specifics of each partnership.

1. Labor/ Management:

A Master Agreement focused on a problem-solving approach called "consensus bargaining," including shared decision-making to foster trust and respect among stakeholders and to attract the best teachers.
Helena School District and Helena Education Association

2. Higher Education/

P-12: A different model for pre-service teaching experiences called co-teaching. *Montana State University & University of Montana Departments of Education and various school districts*

3. School District/

Parents: Concrete examples of techniques that work for engaging parents of middle and high school students. *Stevensville Middle and High School teachers, administration, and parents*

4. Student/School:

Integrating the student voice in creating an engaging school climate. School districts use of data from the "My Voice" survey, developed by the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations. *Various school districts*

2011 Montana Educator Forum Planning Committee

Pete Donovan, Certification, Standards & Practices Advisory Council
Darrell Rud, Executive Director
School Administrators of Montana
Tammy Pilcher, President
Helena Education Association

Bob Vogel, Government Relations Director
Montana Schools Boards Association
Anne Keith, 2010 Montana Teacher of the Year, Chief Joseph Middle School, Bozeman
Paul Andersen, 2011 Montana Teacher of the Year, Bozeman High School

Bruce Messinger, Superintendent
Helena Public Schools
Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction
Robert Evans, Dean, College of Education & Human Services, U of M

The Montana Educator Forum

The annual Educator Forum recognizes the professional expertise of Montana educators. It provides opportunities for teachers, administrators, and other educators to share their perspectives with colleagues, parents, and policy leaders.